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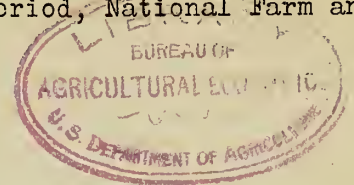


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THE NEW FEDERAL SEED ACT
Interstate Transportation of Seed by Truck

A discussion between Wallace L. Kadderly, Chief of Radio Service, and E. J. Murphy, head, Grain and Seed Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, Broadcast Monday, May 13, 1940, in the Department of Agriculture period, National Farm and Home Hour.

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KADDERLY:

During the past few months, we have brought you information on the new Federal Seed Act that went into effect on February 5. The underlying purpose of this new Act is to protect the farmer and to see that he gets the kind and quality of seed he asks for.

Today Mr. E. J. Murphy, Head of the Grain and Seed Division of the Agricultural Marketing Service is going to tell us about the requirements of the Act that govern the interstate trucking of seed. Mr. Murphy there is a point here that I think should be made clear. It is this: Rye, barley, wheat, corn, and other grains are really seeds, but trucking them from one State to another for feed or manufacturing purposes does not come under this Seed Act.

MURPHY:

That's an important point. Transportation of grain for other than seed purposes comes under statutes.

KADDERLY:

So, what you're going to tell us applies only to trucking of seed for seeding purposes.

MURPHY:

Correct.

Farm and Home friends, let me re-emphasize that this law is not concerned with the inter-state trucking of grain, but it does play an important part in the interstate trucking of seed. There are a lot more trucks on the road than there used to be. Many of these haul seeds from one State to another. So you see the regulation of interstate trucking of seed is important.

There is one other thing I would like to make clear before I go any further. We are much more interested in getting the cooperation of the farmers, seed dealers, and truckers, in seeing that the provisions of the law are carried out, instead of having to make arrests, and take them to court for violations.

Many reliable seed dealers deliver their seed by truck. As a group they want to cooperate in the enforcement of this new Seed Act. I'm certain of that. But at the same time there are many persons who use their trucks to transport seeds that do not comply with the seed laws. It has been part of our job to investigate a number of such cases. We found that some truck owners have bought seed screenings and transported them into another State, where the seller represented the seed as better than it actually was. Sales were made on the street, farm to farm, and to elevator men. On many occasions we found that the seed was either not labeled at all or was falsely labeled. The buyer thought he was getting good seed at a low price. He discovered his mistake too late. You cannot judge the quality of seed by merely looking at it.

The new Federal Seed Act (with a few exceptions) requires that all seed transported in interstate commerce for seeding purposes shall be labeled with detailed information showing the kind of seed, the percentage of pure seed, the percentage that will germinate, and the quantity of weed seeds, trash, and inert matter. In other words, the law requires that the seeds shall be labeled so that the buyer will know exactly what he's getting. For this reason, I'd like to say just a few words directly to those of you who are elevator men, farmers, or others who buy or handle crop seeds in rural areas. If you buy seed from a trucker, make it a point to have some record of the person from whom you buy it -- his name, address, the number on the license plates.

It is evident that many persons who transport seed by truck across state lines don't seem to know it is against the law to haul seed from one State to another and to sell it without having the seed properly marked. But, that does not excuse the seller. We are anxious to have everyone know the provisions of this law. So, let me say again: make sure that the seed you buy is properly labeled.

We realize that the Act is new....and as I said at the beginning, I am sure you can understand that it is much more satisfying to us to secure compliance with its requirements through voluntary cooperation than it is to have to use legal proceedings. We will of course be glad to answer any questions you may have relative to the new Seed Act.

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